



REGULAR MEETING OF GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL held
Monday, November 13, 2000.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL was answered by Council members Edward V.J. Putens, Rodney M. Roberts, Thomas X. White, and Judith F. Davis, Mayor. Mr. Turnbull was out of town on business.

ALSO PRESENT were Michael P. McLaughlin, City Manager; Robert A. Manzi, City Solicitor; David E. Moran, Assistant to the City Manager; and Kathleen Gallagher, City Clerk.

Mayor Davis observed a moment of silence for residents Mattie H. Siegel and Maria Turner and for former resident William C. Bevan. She then led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CONSENT AGENDA: Mr. White moved that the consent agenda be approved. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

Council thereby took the following actions:

MINUTES

- Work Session, October 16, 2000
- Public Hearing, October 18, 2000
- Regular Meeting, October 23, 2000
- Interviews, November 1, 2000
- Work Session, November 6, 2000

Approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Advisory Planning Board, Communication, 11/7/00 (Public Works Facility): Council accepted this report and will consider it as the plans for the facility develop.

Arts Advisory Board, Report # 01-001 (Old Greenbelt Theatre): Council accepted this report and will consider it on a future agenda.

Park & Recreation Advisory Board, Report #00-7 (Pool Temperature): Council accepted this report and agreed to consider it with the item on this topic later on this evening's agenda.

Millennium Community Task Force, Communication, 10/25/00 (Update on Plans for 2001): Council accepted this report and agreed to consider it with the item on this topic later on this evening's agenda.

ANACOSTIA TRAILS HERITAGE AREA - REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATING MUNICIPALITY PAYMENT: Council approved the payment of \$4,729 as the City's contribution for 2000 for the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area.

APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO ADVISORY GROUPS: Council appointed Jacqueline B. Magness and Elizabeth A. Roslewicz to the Advisory Committee on Education and Joyce Griffin to the Recycling and Environment Advisory Committee. Council reappointed the following to new three-year terms: Dorry Ipolito and Kelby N. Brick, the Public Safety Advisory Committee; and James F. O'Reilly and Hugh D. Jascourt, the Employee Relations Board. Mr. O'Reilly will continue as the Council-appointed chairperson of the Employee Relations Board. Council directed staff to prepare and send the appropriate letters of appointment and reappointment.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Putens moved the approval of the agenda. Mr. White seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

PRESENTATIONS

Maryland's 157: Mayor Davis introduced Leta Mach and Pamela Moody of the Advisory Committee on Education (ACE). She then introduced Mayor Tawanna Gaines of Berwyn Heights, who in turn introduced three members of the Berwyn Heights Town Council: Ron Shane, Teresa Laughlin, and Darald Lofgren. Mayor Davis gave an overview of the Maryland Municipal League's purpose in publishing Maryland's 157: The Incorporated Cities and Towns, which is being distributed to libraries and schools throughout the state. She also noted that this is National Education Week. She and Mayor Gaines presented copies of the book to the following school and library representatives who were in attendance: Traketa Wray, Principal, Gaywood Elementary; Katie Knorr, Social Studies, Greenbelt Elementary; Mary Jo Domen, Reading Specialist, Magnolia Elementary; Marlow Castillo, Social Studies, Springhill Lake Elementary; Liz Whelan, Principal, St. Hugh's; John La Polla, Vice Principal, and John Hickey, MSPAP Coordinator, Greenbelt Middle; Mark Covington, Vice Principal, Eleanor Roosevelt High School; and Ellen Utley, Branch Manager, Greenbelt Library. Mayor Davis noted that copies of the book may also be available for sale through the Greenbelt Museum.

Ms. Mach then gave a brief overview of two ACE programs. Through the Buy-A-Book Program, one can purchase through area bookstores books that have been identified by media specialists as needed by the schools. The new ACE Reading Program is headed by Pamela Moody, with assistance from Carol Mealey.

America Recycles Day - Proclamation: The Mayor read the proclamation declaring November 15th America Recycles Day in Greenbelt. Walter Moody, Sieglinde Peterson, and Darlene Squibb received the proclamation from the Mayor on behalf of the Recycling and Environment Advisory Committee (REAC).

"Recycle Right" Awards: The Mayor read the agenda comments. William Smith and Cindy Murray of the Public Works Department and the three representatives of REAC announced the residential awards were being received by Lillian and Todd Johnson, Ellie Clark, Lynn and Henry Kuhn, and Frances Marra. The winners of the plaques for multi-family developments for outstanding recycling effort were Greenbriar Condominiums, represented by Barbara Smith and Nancy Ward, and the Hunting Ridge Condominium Association, represented by Kay Moomey.

Darlene Squibb then announced that in her role as board member of Citizens Concerned for a Cleaner County, she had received yesterday on behalf of Mayor Davis Greenbelt's Mayor Millennium Challenge, a challenge to increase recycling and reduce littering that is being made to all the mayors of Prince George's County.

PETITIONS AND REQUESTS

Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center Indoor Pool - Petition on Temperature: The Mayor read the agenda comments. Council accepted the petition and agreed to consider it later on the agenda. Mayor Davis noted that Council had also received a letter from Robert and Jerry Holloway in support of continuing to maintain the indoor pool temperature at 83E.

Spellman Overpass: Emily Bronstein, 6-S Ridge Road, stated that her son and several other students were robbed on their way to Eleanor Roosevelt High School last Thursday morning. She said a police officer is supposed to be at the overpass through this week but that she and other parents would like protection to be extended beyond that. Lt. Thomas Kemp and Corp. David Buerger reported that with the help of citizens, the police had been able to identify and arrest two suspects, who at this time had been charged with five counts of robbery. At this time, 13 robberies were known to have occurred. The suspects were not Greenbelt residents. Corp. Buerger said he did not believe that posting an officer at the overpass every morning would be a good use of resources. In response to a query from Ms. Bronstein, he said, as school resource officer, he has other commitments at the beginning of the school day, and Officer Parker works a later shift. The major problem is the isolation of the area. He thinks a surveillance camera might help. He said Principal Conyers wants to participate in finding ways to make the overpass safer.

Mr. Putens asked the City Manager the status of the discussion of having a camera at that location. Mr. McLaughlin responded that Chief Craze and Lt. Kemp are reviewing it. Mr. Putens also suggested this might be a good time to go back to the County for potential support for school public safety. He also noted that his earlier suggestion of making use of retired police officers might be relevant to this type of situation.

Harvey Geller, 117 Northway, suggested getting volunteers, and Corp. Buerger said he had already suggested to the PTA that parent volunteers might walk the overpass in the morning. In response to a query from Mr. White, Lt. Kemp said the report of the police on this matter will

include some specific recommendations. The Mayor suggested that security from Greenbriar might be able to stay at that end of the overpass in the morning, as they do in the afternoon. Lt. Kemp said that officer visibility will be increased after this week but that it is not possible to dedicate an officer to this location who is not subject to call and other duties.

Sheldon Goldberg, 7848 Jacobs Drive, asked for information on the activity at the small building at Hanover and Ora Glen. Mr. McLaughlin said he had no information on this, but Mr. Goldberg asked if the work being on the building would not require permits that would have been recorded. He also asked if Greenbelt Road between Kenilworth and Beltway Plaza will be resurfaced prior to the cold weather. Mr. McLaughlin said he would look into it.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS

Executive Session, October 25, 2000

Mr. Roberts moved that the minutes of the Executive Meeting of the City Council held Wednesday, October 25, 2000, be approved as presented.

He further requested that the minutes of this meeting reflect that the Council met in Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. in the Municipal Building Library and that Council held this closed meeting in accordance with Sections 10-508 (a) (3) and (8) of the State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto and to consult with staff about pending litigation. Mr. White seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Putens - yes

Mr. Roberts - yes

Mr. White - yes

Mayor Davis - yes

Executive Session, October 30, 2000

Mr. Roberts moved that the minutes of the Executive Meeting of the City Council held Monday, October 30, 2000, be approved as presented.

He further requested that the minutes of this meeting reflect that the Council met in Executive Session at 8:05 p.m. in the Municipal Building Library and that Council held this closed meeting in accordance with Sections 10-508 (a) (3) and (4) of the State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Public General Laws of Maryland to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto and to consider a preliminary matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand or remain in the State. Mr. Putens seconded the motion. Mr. Roberts noted that the meetings had been with regard to the Greenbelt Theatre.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Putens - yes

Mr. Roberts - yes

Mr. White - yes

Mayor Davis - yes

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

At Mr. Putens' request, Mr. McLaughlin said he would check on two items: the status of the Greenbelt Road bus stop and whether additional surveillance cameras were included in this year's budget. He noted with regard to the bus stop that the State Highway Administration was still within the six months it had projected for action.

Mayor Davis reported on the Goddard Alliance Reception on October 25; the Springhill Lake block party on November 4, which several members of Council and a number of City employees attended; the first annual Red Cross Real Heroes Breakfast on November 8, at which Kenny Gray and Janet Goldberg were honored; the City-sponsored Health Fair, also on November 8; and the ceremony at Roosevelt Center on Veterans' Day, which Mr. Turnbull and Mr. Roberts also attended.

LEGISLATION

A Resolution to Amend Resolution Number 916, to Authorize the Negotiated Purchase of Certain Goods and Services from Various Vendors as Enumerated Herein When Total Fiscal Year Purchases from Each Vendor Exceed Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000): The Mayor read the agenda comments. Mr. White introduced this resolution for second reading and adoption. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Putens - yes

Mr. Roberts - yes

Mr. White - yes

Mayor Davis - yes

The resolution was declared adopted (Resolution No. 921, Book No. 8).

A Resolution to Negotiate the Purchase of Street Resurfacing Work from Maryland Paving and Sealant of Jessup, Maryland, in the Amount of \$67,712: The Mayor read the agenda comments. Mr. Putens introduced the resolution for second reading and adoption. Mr. White seconded the motion. Mr. Roberts asked if there were plans to do the rest of the streets in the Lakewood area, and Mr. McLaughlin said this would come to Council in late winter or early spring.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Putens - yes

Mr. Roberts - yes

Mr. White - yes

Mayor Davis - yes

The resolution was declared adopted (Resolution No. 922, Book No. 8).

GREENBELT AQUATIC & FITNESS CENTER (GAFC) - INDOOR POOL TEMPERATURE:

The Mayor read the agenda comments. She said the report Council accepted from the Park and Recreation Advisory Committee earlier in the meeting recommended that the indoor pool temperature be kept at 83E. Adah Strobel of Lanham, representing two arthritis therapy classes, stated that contrary to the information provided in the agenda comments, the Arthritis Foundation recommends that air temperature be kept within five degrees above the water temperature. She said she had been checking the temperatures in the Aquatic & Fitness Center since October 23rd and found the averages to be: water, 83.42E; air, 84.78E; and the dressing room, 74.8E. She said the water and air temperatures are acceptable, but the dressing room is too cold. She also suggested the City do a survey of all City residents to determine other possible daytime uses of the pool by current non-users as a way to increase revenue. Mr. White asked what Dr. Strobel would consider optimum. She said optimum would be 84-88E for the pool, with air five degrees higher, and the dressing room at 78-80E. She stressed that 83E water temperature is a minimum.

Rhea Cohen, 10 Greendale Place, presented a list of maintenance problems she had identified at the GAFC, including rusty lockers, mildew in the showers, missing clothes hooks, and a broken bench in the handicapped shower. She agreed with the need for a survey and suggested that other alternatives might be pursued: e.g., having a third pool for therapeutic purposes or using a bubble-cover on part of the outdoor pool so that it can be used for lap-swimming.

Harvey Geller, 117 Northway, said that although he has arthritis himself, he believes the pool temperature should not be based on the needs of one group and that if the temperature is too high it is too uncomfortable to exercise. He also spoke against a survey of all residents, saying the problem with self-selecting surveys is that it is the people with extreme views who respond, and said a properly designed sample survey would be preferable, if one is to be done.

Leonie Penney, 127 Northway, who described herself as a senior lap-swimmer, asked that the water temperature not be made warmer than the existing 83E because it will discourage use by lap-swimmers and younger people who might use the pool after work. She cited the lack of heat in the hallway as a problem. She said one problem with the temperature in the dressing room is that it swings too widely. It becomes warm enough when the heat is on, but the temperature drops too low before the thermostat kicks the heat in.

Rich Stevenson, 6212 Quebec Place, Berwyn Heights, formerly Director of Recreation for Greenbelt, said there is a consensus that for multi-use indoor pools the best balance is to keep the water temperature at 83E and the air temperature 2-4E higher.

Jack Katz, a former resident who swims laps 3-5 times per week, encouraged Council to maintain the target of 83E and not go higher.

Clem Lau, 6 Greentree Place, uses the pool almost every day. Mr. Lau had high praise for the operation of the pool, but he noted occasional safety problems. Once he saw a lifeguard sleeping. And, in his view, the lifeguards do not always enforce the rules consistently (e.g., cutting across lanes).

Mr. Rogala said he would look into the problems cited and asked that citizens notify the staff when there are problems.

Robert Thomas, 8009 Mandan Road, a lap-swimmer, asked that the temperature please not be raised higher than 83E. He said he had found the staff very responsive when he had brought needs to their attention.

Gerry Boicourt of Bowie, who swims 4-6 times per week, said 83E is enough of a compromise for lap-swimmers and asked that the temperature not be raised further.

Beth Osborne, 3-J Plateau, suggested looking into different types of clothing hooks and different locations to place them to avoid vandalism or inappropriate use, for example, by children.

Mayor Davis summarized, saying there seemed to be a consensus for 83E for the water temperature and 2-5E higher for the air temperature. She said maintenance issues would be looked into and suggested that the issue of doing a survey be referred to the Park & Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB).

Mr. Putens asked that staff look into the maintenance issues and also encouraged investigation of the bubble possibility. He said he appreciated the fact that people at both ends of the question had expressed a willingness to compromise.

Mr. White asked for clarification on the air temperature recommendation, noting that Mr. Stevenson said 2-4E above the water temperature was desirable. Mr. Rogala said the staff recommendation is also 2-4E, with a preference for 2E above the water temperature, because the temperature at the height of the lifeguard chairs is about 5E higher than that.

In response to a query from Mr. Roberts, Mr. McLaughlin clarified that the reason the rusty lockers in the women's locker room have not been replaced is that there are still a good number of unruined lockers, so the item has not been given highest priority. He said he would look at it for next fiscal year but would not necessarily recommend that it be done.

Mr. Putens moved that the staff of the Aquatic and Fitness Center continue to set the temperature of the indoor pool at 83E; that the air temperature be kept at 85E, and that the idea of a survey be

referred to Park & Recreation Advisory Board for review. Mr. White seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

MILLENNIUM COMMUNITY TASK FORCE - UPDATE ON PLANS FOR 2001: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments and introduced Greg Varda and Patti Brothers. Council praised the work that had been done on the millennium passport. Mr. Putens moved, and Mr. Roberts seconded, that \$4,000-4,500 be authorized to cover the printing of 1,000 passports, the stamps, advertising, the prize, and the trees. It was concluded that Mr. Roberts' suggestion to include the dedication of the 184 acres of contiguous woodlands as a forest preserve was not yet sufficiently developed for Council's formal action but that it could be attached to another event later, if so warranted. Mr. McLaughlin said that a staff report on this subject is forthcoming from Planning and Community Development and that the plan could subsequently be referred to the Advisory Planning Board, the Advisory Committee on Trees, and the Park & Recreation Advisory Board.

Mr. White said he would support the motion, but he encouraged staff to pursue sponsorship for some of the costs of the passport. In further discussion, it was agreed to amend the motion to include the Greenbelt Theatre and the Greenbelt Library in the passport, and Mr. Varda said he would talk further with Ms. Utley, the library branch manager, about ideas she presented on the latter. The amended motion passed 4-0.

Bertram Dunn, 19 Woodland Way, said he had proposed that programs to create a culture of peace and nonviolence be included as part of the millennium activities. Although this idea was mentioned both in the report from the Community Relations Advisory Board (CRAB) that initially suggested establishing a millennium task force and in the task force's report to Council, Mr. Dunn was not notified of any task force meetings. Mr. Varda said the task force had not met between its spring meeting and the October work session with Council, and he apologized for not having notified Mr. Dunn. Mr. McLaughlin said that in a subsequent report, CRAB had agreed to consider any specific ideas Mr. Dunn wished to put forth. Council directed that staff once again refer Mr. Dunn's proposal to CRAB and that, subsequent to Mr. Dunn's meeting with CRAB, a work session be scheduled for Council to meet with CRAB and Mr. Dunn.

RECOMMENDED JOB RECLASSIFICATIONS: Mayor Davis read the agenda comments. Mr. Roberts moved that Council accept these job reclassifications and consider them for approval at the November 27th meeting. Mr. Putens seconded. Mr. White said he believed these reclassifications should not be acted upon apart from the findings of the pay and benefits study because they could further exacerbate the inequities that had already been identified by the study. He said that, just as with the two percent across-the-board increase, he objected to making changes on a piecemeal basis prior to having more complete information that would permit Council to take a more comprehensive approach. Mr. McLaughlin said he held these recommendations until the initial findings of the study were in, but he now believes they should be acted upon in fairness to the employees involved. The two positions that actually involve reclassification will affect the staffing schedule; the promotions do not. Mr. Putens expressed agreement that the actions proposed here are independent of the pay and benefits study, since they do not affect a comparison of duties. Because only two of the requested actions are reclassifications rather than promotions of individuals, Mr. White asked if Council approval is necessary for promotions, since they would involve existing job descriptions. Mr. McLaughlin

said there has not been a clear understanding in the organization of whether Council approval is required, and these changes should have been included in the budget for FY 2001 instead. He said Council approval is required because the positions affect the staffing schedule, which is approved with the budget. Mr. Putens emphasized that Council was also reviewing job descriptions as part of an effort to "clean up" some of the classification categories and that this matter was separate from pay-scale concerns. Mr. White said that he would stick with his decision to vote against the acceptance because in his view the actions proposed would bypass the findings of the pay and benefits study. The vote was called, and the motion passed 3-1 (White).

APPROVAL OF GUIDE TO COMMEMORATION AND MEMORIALS: The Mayor read the agenda comments. Mr. Putens moved that the guide be approved as presented. Mr. White seconded. Mr. Putens subsequently noted a correction on the Adopt-A-Tree Application to say "\$1 per letter inscribed" that Mr. Moran said he would incorporate. It was clarified that for tree memorials, the City is now using bronze plaques rather than engraved brass or plastic plaques and that in the case of vandalism, the individual who had purchased the plaque would be responsible for replacement costs, though the City would be responsible for replacing trees. The motion then passed 4-0.

FOCUS GROUP FOR I-95/I-495 GREENBELT METRO ACCESS STUDY: The Mayor read the agenda comments. Mr. White questioned the assignment of a place to Citizens to Conserve and Restore Indian Creek (CCRIC), since it is not a City organization. Mr. Roberts objected to the City's participation, since he believed not only that the focus group would not carry any weight but also that the State Highway Administration (SHA) was overstepping its bounds since federal property is involved. Mayor Davis agreed that there may be problems with the conceptualization of the task force but said she nevertheless believed it to be better for the City to participate. Mr. Putens moved, and Mr. White seconded, that the City nominate one Council member, someone from the Advisory Planning Board (APB), and someone from Springhill Lake, and that a fourth spot be advertised. Mr. Goldberg said he would take the request to the APB but noted that two members of the APB have already been nominated to the SHA's task force on Greenbelt Road. Mayor Davis said she would serve as the Council representative. The motion passed 3-1 (Roberts).

MEETINGS: The Mayor reviewed the calendar. Council agreed to hold an Executive Session on Wednesday, November 15. Mr. White said he thought Council should discuss the agenda for the upcoming work session with the Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation, and Council agreed to discuss that in a work session following the November 15th work session.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. White moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Putens seconded the motion, which carried 4-0. Mayor Davis adjourned the regular meeting of November 13, 2000, at 12:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Gallagher

City Clerk

"I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct report of the regular meeting of the City Council of Greenbelt, Maryland, held November 13, 2000."

Judith F. Davis

Mayor